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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Armistice Celebration at Kangnyong-ni	DATE DISTR.	21 September 1953
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- On 29 July, representatives of various organizations within Kangnyong-gun held a meeting and decided to have an armistice celebration meeting on 30 July 1953. The celebration was sponsored by the Kangnyong-gun People's Committee. Policemen were sent to various villages to round up people to attend the meeting. In Ihwa-dong, a village meeting was held at 2100 hours on 29 July 1953. One policeman and one civilian office employee explained to the villagers the meaning of the armistice and the program for the armistice celebration. The village People's Committee made cotton cloth placards, and other village officials prepared a list of persons who were supposed to attend the meeting. All persons were to attend the meeting, with the exception of one person to watch each house. This person had to be the youngest or the oldest in the household.
- On 29 July, all villages were ordered to set up at least two pine branch arches in each village. Each ward (sic), and each political or social organization was required to make one or more placards. The villagers were ordered to arrive at Kangnyong-ni (N 37-54, E 125-31) (YB-2197) in their best dress and carry a North Korean national flag. They were to arrive not later than 1000 hours. Four pine branch arches, bearing various signs, were set up in Kangnyong-ni. One of the arches had the following sign: The Armistice Celebration, People began assembling in the Kangnyong People's School playground at YB-207979 at 0800 hours. Various merchants also assembled in the area to sell their wares, but the policemen prohibited the selling of commodities and urged the merchants to join the celebration. Various bands from the surrounding areas played native tunes, and student recreational circles presented concerts and dances. The celebration was carried through until 31 July 1953 when athletic competitions were held.
- On 30 July 1953, approximately 20 North Korean policemen, 50 armed self-defense unit members, 120 North Korean army troops, 1,800 civilians, and 930 students attended the meeting. The North Korean soldiers were members of the 2 Battalion, 21 Brigade, formerly stationed at YB-1184, and they attended the meeting during a two-day stopover, enroute to a new position in the rear area. The students

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came from the following 12 schools:

- a. One hundred and fifty from the Kangnyŏng Junior Middle School.
 - b. Ninety from the Kangnyŏng Ilni People's School.
 - c. Sixty from the Kangnyŏng Iri People's School.
 - d. Fifty from the Pumin People's School.
 - e. Fifty from the Kwanch'ŏn People's School.
 - f. Thirty from the Kumsuri People's School.
 - g. Seventy from the Kotongni People's School.
 - h. One hundred from the Yongyon-ni People's School.
 - i. Ninety from the Hyangsu-ri People's School.
 - j. Seventy from the Sampong-ni People's School.
 - k. Seventy from the Tangsan-ni People's School.
 - l. One hundred from the Tongkang-ni People's School.
4. On 30 July 1953, the following points were emphasized at the armistice celebration:
- a. The war had ended in victory for the Communist forces.
 - b. A peaceful unification of Korea would be realized in one and one-half years.
 - c. Many North Korean and Chinese Communist heroes had emerged from the Korean war.
 - d. All islands held by the United Nations had been liberated.
 - e. Strong village self-defense units were still needed because of guerrillas in the mountain areas.
5. At 1400 hours on 30 July 1953, while a staff member of the gun Democratic Alliance was addressing the audience, someone yelled, "air raid", mistaking the noise of a passing truck, and the meeting turned into a chaos. In approximately 15 minutes, the celebration was resumed, but most of the audience had taken advantage of the confusion and left because they were tired and hungry. Before the close of the meeting, celebration guns were fired, and the people became frightened again and broke up in a disorderly manner.

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